

In the Claims

Please delete all the reference numerals and amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1

1. (Amended) A circular cutter unit for cutting [flat] lengths of flat material [such as sheet metal in a horizontal plane (10)] comprising :

upper and lower circular blades lying in planes substantially perpendicular to the [horizontal] plane of the flat material and parallel with a longitudinal direction of the material;

upper and lower blade shafts respectively supporting said upper and lower blades, said shafts extending parallel with said [horizontal] plane of the material and perpendicular to said longitudinal direction;

a non-positive drive connection between said blade including a transport ring mounted for rotation with one of the blades and in driving engagement with the other of the blade shafts;

a frame having substantially a U-shape when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the flat material with the upper and lower legs interconnected by a flat yoke intersecting said [horizontal] plane of the material at an acute angle,

means for rotatably supporting said upper and lower blade shafts respectively in said upper and lower legs;

means for establishing and adjusting a cutting gap between said two circular blades; and

means for releasably coupling one of the circular blades of said cutter unit to a driving unit having a motor[; and]

[means for non-positively connecting one of said two circular blades to said motor of said driving unit].

Claim 2

Line 2, please delete "adjustable" and insert --adjusted to--

Claim 3

(Amended) A circular cutter unit according to claim 1 wherein said means for [non-positively connecting] releasably coupling one of [said] the blades is [connected] coupled to said lower blade.

Claim 4

Please cancel claim 4.

Claim 5

(Amended) A circular cutter unit according to claim 1 wherein the transport ring of said non-positive drive connection between said blade shafts [comprises a friction drive] is in frictional driving engagement with the other of the blades.

Claim 8

Line 3, please delete "adjustable within the" and insert --adjusted to a--.

Claim 9

Please cancel claim 9.

Claim 10

(Amended) A circular cutter unit according to claim [9] 1 wherein said upper and lower shafts support said circular blades in overlapping relationship at a cutting angle in a [the] range of 6 to 8° at the nib of the overlapping blades.

Claim 12

Line 3, please delete "the" and insert --a--.

Claim 13

Please cancel claim 13

Claim 14

Line 3, please delete "the" and insert --a--.

Claim 15

Line 3, please delete "the" and insert --a--.

Claim 17

Line 3, please delete "the" and insert --a--.

Claim 18

(Amended) An apparatus for cutting flat lengths of sheet metal in a generally horizontal plane [including] comprising:

a plurality of circular cutting units each [comprising] including:

upper and lower circular blades lying in planes substantially perpendicular to the horizontal plane and parallel with a longitudinal direction [of] in which the [material] sheet metal is fed between the circular blades,

upper and lower blade shafts respectively supporting said upper and lower blades, said shafts extending parallel with said horizontal plane and perpendicular to said longitudinal direction,

a non-positive drive connection between said blade shafts including a transport ring mounted respectively on each one of the upper and lower blade shafts adjacent the upper and lower circular blades respectively, and disposed in frictional driving engagement with the circular blade on the other of the upper and lower blade shafts;

a frame having substantially a U-shape when viewed from above the horizontal plane with upper and lower legs interconnected by a flat yoke intersecting said horizontal plane at an acute angle, and

means for rotatably supporting said upper and lower blade shafts respectively in said upper and lower legs, and means for establishing and adjusting a cutting gap between said two circular blades; and

means for releasably coupling each said cutter unit to a driving unit having a motor whereby each said cutter unit can be [released] driven from said [apparatus] driving unit independently of each other cutting unit;

a plurality of parallel guide rails extending perpendicular to said longitudinal direction; and

means on each of said frames slidabl[e]y engaging said guide rails so that each of said circular cutter units is independently positionable along said rails.

Claim 19

Line 2, please delete "is capable of setting" and insert --sets--.

Claim 20

(Amended) An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said circular cutting units are mounted on said guide rails with said circular cutting blades [thereof] of each cutting unit oriented in [the same direction] parallel relationship with the blades of the other cutting units.

Claim 21

Line 2, please delete "such as sheet metal";

Line 17,18, please delete these lines.

In the Abstract

Please delete the reference numerals.

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in the application as amended above are claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14-21.

Drawings

Applicant is enclosing for approval a set of informal drawings which illustrate in red the reference α in Fig. 2 as mentioned on page 5 (amended above) and a reversal of the reference numerals 26 and 27 in Fig. 1 for consistency with Fig.